

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 EA-07 AF-08 /100 W

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5789

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 3455

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,UN, CE

SUBJECT: PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REF (A) STATE 220773, (B) STATE 220772

1. SUMMARY. EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 14 DISCUSSED U.S. POSITIONS ON UNGA ISSUES WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL. OFFICIAL TOOK NOTES BUT MADE VERY FEW COMMENTS. HE FELT KOREA WOULD BE DIFFICULT ISSUE FOR SRI LANKA THIS YEAR BECAUSE IT HAD ASSUMED CHAIRMANSHIP OF NON-ALIGNED.HE THOUGHT U.S. VETO OF VIETNAM'S UN ADMISSION WOULD BE A MISTAKE

AND WOULD HELP THE CAUSE OF RADICALS WITHIN THE NON-ALIGNED. FINALLY,WE DISAGREE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE PROPOSAL.END SUMMARY.

2.EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 14 DISCUSSED UNGA ISSUES WITH ACTING DIRECTOR UN AFFAIRS IN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA), A. FATHIRAMALAINATHAN. DRAWING ON BACK-GROUND PROVIDED REFTEL A AND KOREA PORTION OR REFTEL B EMBOFF PUT FORWARD U.S. POSITIONS ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE LIKELY TO COME UP AT 31ST UNGA.ACTING DIRECTOR TOOK CAREFUL NOTES DURING PRESENTATION. HE NOTED THAT SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT'S (GSL) POSITIONS
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FOR UNGA ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT AND HE WOULD

CONVEY U.S. VIEWS TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS WITHIN MDFA.
KATHIRAMALAINATHAN MADE A FEW COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL
ISSUES WHICH ARE GIVEN BELOW.

3. ON KOREA, HE SAID THAT THEY WERE IN SOMEWHAT OF A
QUANDARY AS TO HOW TO HANDLE ISSUE THIS YEAR. AS
CHAIRMAN OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), GSL MIGHT HAVE
DIFFICULTY ABSTAINING THIS YEAR AS IT HAD DONE LAST
YEAR, (ACTING DIRECTOR REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT ON
POSSIBLE VOTE, I.E. WHETHER HE WAS THINKING OF YES/NO
VOTE ON HOSTILE AND FRIENDLY RESOLUTIONS RESPECTIVELY
OR A YES/ABSTAIN VOTE) SAYING HE WAS MERELY SPECULATING. HE
OFFERED AS ANOTHER POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE HARSH WORDS ON
KOREA IN GSL'S STATEMENT FOLLOWED BY ABSTENTION ON BOTH KOREA
RESOLUTIONS.

4. ACTING UN DIRECTOR ASKED WHAT USG'S POSITION IS RE-
GARDING VIETNAM'S AND ANGOLA'S ADMISSION. EMBOFF TOLD
HIM THAT USG HAD DECIDED TO VETO VIETNAM'S ADMISSION
AND, REGARDING ANGOLA ADMISSION, EMBASSY UNAWARE OF ANY
NEW DEVELOPMENT. EMBOFF THEN EXPLAINED U.S. POSITION THAT VETO
IS BASED ON VIETNAM'S FAILURE TO MEET U.N. MEMBERSHIP
CRITERIA DRAWING ON WIRELESS FILE ITEM REGARDING AMBASSADOR
SCRANTON'S SEPTEMBER 13 VETO DECISION ANNOUNCEMENT.
MDFA OFFICIAL SAID, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE THOUGHT U.S.
DECISION TO VETO VIETNAM'S UN ADMISSION WAS
MISTAKE. HE FELT IT WOULD CREATE CONSIDERABLE PROBLEMS
FOR MIDDLE-GROUND COUNTRIES IN NAM (AS OPPOSED TO
RADICALS IDENTIFIED WITH COMMUNISTS AND CONSERVATIVES
IDENTIFIED WITH WEST) AND MIGHT WELL FORCE MIDDLE-GROUND
COUNTRIES TO SHIFT TOWARD RADICAL SIDE.

5. REGARDING THE INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE (IOPZ),
KATHIRAMALAINATHAN SAID GSL COULD NOT ACCEPT U.S.
ARGUMENTS, ESPECIALLY THE ONE THAT IOPZ WAS ATTEMPT TO
IMPOSE SPECIAL LEGAL REGIME ON CERTAIN PART OF HIGH
SEAS. HE CLAIMED THAT PROPOSAL ENVISAGES AGREEMENT ON
VOLUNTARY BASIS ONLY AND THAT ATTEMPT SO FAR IS MERELY
TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS ON HOW IOPZ PROPOSAL MIGHT BE
BROUGHT INTO EFFECT. GSL FAILS TO UNDERSTAND WHY
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MARITIME POWERS REFUSE TO EVEN DISCUSS MATTER.
REED

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NNN

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